

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1. A method of provisioning a set-top box (STB) with a STB  
2 provisioning system including a service provisioning system, a billing system, a  
3 conditional access system, a video device manager, and a provisioning datastore, the  
4 method comprising:

5                 storing STB profile information in the provisioning datastore;  
6 receiving a customer order at the service provisioning system;  
7 notifying the billing system of the customer order;  
8 notifying the conditional access system of the customer order;  
9 storing information from the customer order in the provisioning

10 datastore;

11                 notifying the video device manager about the STB; and  
12 delivering a cable operator configuration message from the video  
13 device manager to the STB, the configuration message being based on information  
14 from the provisioning datastore, thereby provisioning the STB without essential  
15 involvement of the conditional access system.

1           2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2                 storing STB certification information in the provisioning datastore.

1           3. The method of claim 2 further wherein the STB certification  
2 information is instantiated as an XML formatted document.

1           4. The method of claim 1 wherein the STB profile information  
2 is instantiated as an XML formatted document.

1           5. The method of claim 1 wherein the customer order is  
2 instantiated as an XML document.

1           6. The method of claim 1 wherein notifying the conditional  
2 access system of the customer order is performed by the billing system.

1                   7.     The method of claim 1 wherein notifying the conditional  
2     access system of the customer order is performed by the service provisioning  
3     system.

1                   8.     The method of claim 1 wherein the STB provisioning system  
2     further includes a data device manager, the method further comprising:  
3                      notifying the data device manager about the STB.

1                   9.     The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to  
2     the STB is instantiated as an XML document.

1                   10.    The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to  
2     the STB includes configuration of the STB geographical location.

1                   11.    The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message to  
2     the STB includes configuration to enable multiple channel lineups.

1                   12.    The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message is  
2     sent using bi-directional unicast messaging.

1                   13.    The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message is  
2     sent using uni-directional multicast messaging.

1                   14.    The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration message is  
2     sent in response to a boot-time request from the STB.